(c) whether Government propose to seek the help of social workers for the distribution of medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) There is no such report, even from Gujarat.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Production and Unauthorised Sale of the Drug 'Tidigestic' in Madras

6668. SHRI MATANG SINH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a powerful semi-synathatic drug sold under the brand name 'tidigenic' manufactured by Hyderabad-based Tamil Nadu Dadha Pharmaceuticals Limited which is 25 times more potent than morphine, has become the latest choice for addicts who find heroin and brown sugar hard to come by;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said drug is available in Madras and other cities at Rs. 20/- per tablet as against its prescribed rate of Rs. 10/- per tablet;

(c) whether Government propose to conduct any enquiry about the production and unauthorised sale of this drug and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the action proposed to be taken to stop the production of this drug or restrict the sale thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) 'Tidigesic' is brand name of Buprenorphine which is a far more potent painkiller than morphine but with a lower abuse potential.

The sale of this drug is already restricted as it is a prescription drug under the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules. In view of its therapeutic use there is no proposal to stop its production.

The Monthly Index of Medical Specialities (MIMS) of April, 1994 has reported a retail price of Rs. 22.03 for 10 tablets of Tidigesic. The Central Government has no official report of its sale at a higher price.

The State Drugs Controllers are responsible for investigating into the allegation of violation of Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules including unauthorised sale.

Cases of Female Infanticides in Tamil Nadu

6669. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme that was brought by the Tamil Nadu Government to curb infanticide failed to take off and there are large scale female infanticides taking place in the Southern part of Tamil Nadu,

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Action Plan to Curb Population Growth

6670. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the recent two week deliberations in New York, beginning on April 4, 1994, a draft programme of action for population control was adopted;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what steps are to be taken by Government in the light thereof to curb

the population growth in India; and

(d) what are the contemplated targets fixed in this regard to be achieved by the end of the 20th Century?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) At the IIIrd Preparatory Meeting to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held from '4—22nd April, 1994, a draft final document'of ICPD was discussed. it will be finalised and adopted at the ICPD to be held at Cairo, Egypt in September, 1994.

Upgradation of General Hospital Particularly in Gujarat

6671. SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade any General hospital in the country to the level of Super-speciality Service Hospitals during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the names of those General Hospitals, State-wise;

(c) the total amount sanctioned by Government for this purpose; and

(d) the amount earmarked by the Central Government for upgradation of Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals in Ahmedabad, Baroda, Surat and Jamnagar in Gujarat State during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Patients of Tuberculosis in the Country

6672. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who are suffering from Tuberculosis in the country;

(b) the number of people who died due to TB in the last three years State-wise and year-wise figures thereof;

(c) the amount which has been spent to contain and cure T.B, during the last three years;

(d) whether patients of TB are increasing in the country, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there is any proposal to increase TB hospitals and clinics throughout the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) About 1.5% of the population is suffering from TB uniformally throughout the country and the mortality due to TB has been about 50 per 1,00,000 per annum.

(c) During the last three years expenditure incurred by Central Government under National TB Control programme is as under:

Year	(Rs. in lakhs) Expenditure
1990-91	1247.60
1991-92	718.95
1992-93	2700.66

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.